

DTR Action Item Implementation Proposal Form

(Refer to your Action Team's Assignment Sheet for DTR section heading and recommendation number.)

Your Action Team Name: Science & Research

1. DTR Section Heading on Assignment Sheet: E. Harvest Data, Herd Health & Productivity

2. The DTR # and Recommendation on Assignment Sheet:

#1. Involving the public in data collection produces many benefits, including buy-in on management and harvest strategies and cost-efficiencies of data collection.

3. List any additional information you would like the DNR to provide to help your Action Team develop implementation action items for this recommendation:

4. Implementation Action Item Proposal:

- We agree with the recommendation. Encouraging public involvement has been a theme throughout the discussion.
- Ensure public involvement is centered on rigorous and standardized methods.
- Use pilot studies to develop and test public-based citizen-science data collection methods
- Ensure a level of competence achieved by public volunteers
- Make volunteer 'teams' to add structure
- Research how other states use citizen science, with emphasis on encouraging citizens to join and retaining their participation
- Partner with local conservation and other outdoor clubs to solicit and organize volunteers
- Ensure methods are user-friendly
 - Low-cost, easy to join (e.g. online training)

5. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

- These steps will increase citizen buy-in.
- Research projects have been very successful in getting citizens involved

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- For example the buck mortality and fawn survival studies
- Carnivore snow-track surveys

6. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- If not done properly, data is poor
- Observer bias
- Must learn from successes and failures of citizen involvement

7. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- Increased buy-in will make hunters happier, thus reducing conflict with agency
- Adding new data streams will add more complexity and work
- By increasing the credibility of research projects and obtaining better buy-in from hunters, get better acceptance of results of projects and could increase desire by the public to fund future studies